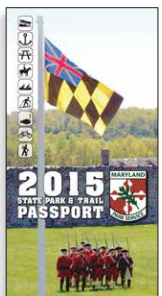




WELCOME

Thank you for visiting and we hope you'll enjoy the unsurpassed outdoor recreation, historic and cultural interpretation, and bountiful natural resources found in Maryland State Parks. Our park staff takes great pride in the trust to manage and care for these special places for all Maryland citizens and visitors to enjoy. When you visit Maryland State Parks and nearby gateway communities, you are also supporting the local economy. We hope your visit creates lasting memories and provides opportunity to discover nature in the most meaningful of ways, bringing you back often.



TAKE IT OUTSIDE

Get outdoors and play! Frequent visitors to Maryland State Parks will see a genuine cost savings when they purchase a Maryland State Park Passport. The Passport offers: unlimited day-use entry for up to 10 people in a vehicle; unlimited boat launching at all State Park facilities; and a 10% discount on state-operated concessions and boat rentals (\$75 or \$100 out-of-state).



Rate a park!
Let us know how much you love our parks at ParkVisitor.com



EXPLORE

FOR FAMILY FUN

Plan an outdoor adventure in a Maryland State Park. Pack a picnic and spend a day at one of Maryland's 66 state parks. Families will find endless opportunities to hike, bike, paddle canoes and kayaks or spend the night under the stars at cozy campsites.

FOR PETS

Plan a day trip or overnight adventure in a Maryland State Park that includes your family pet. Many pet friendly day-use areas, campground, swimming beaches and undeveloped areas are accessible to your leashed pet.

FOR WINTER FUN

Cross country ski or snowshoe on groomed trails at Herrington Manor and New Germany State Parks in Western Maryland. Celebrate New Year's Day on a First Day Hike. Explore nature with binoculars and a field guide to search for winter wildlife.

FOR ACCESSIBLE SITES

Maryland State Parks offer accessible campsites, picnic tables and shelters, fishing piers and boat ramps, playgrounds and hunting areas. Search for accessible amenities at a state park near you.

FOR FISHING

Anglers have unlimited options to catch freshwater fish, try their hands at crabbing or discover fly fishing for the first time. Make sure to obtain the necessary license required before exploring fishing opportunities in Maryland State Parks.

FOR HORSEBACK RIDING

Equestrians can enjoy nature via saddle at many state park sites. Explore the multi-use trails by day at Fair Hill NRMA in Cecil County, and spend the night in horse-friendly campsites with nearby stabling services.

FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Become an advocate of Maryland State Parks by joining a local "Friends" group, or the statewide volunteer organization Friends of Maryland State Parks. Volunteers help preserve



and protect Maryland State Parks for future generations through cleanup projects, tree plantings, and other park enhancement projects statewide.

FOR HANDS-ON NATURE

Many state parks offer nature centers so visitors can learn more about conserving and protecting natural resources. Deep Creek Lake's Discovery Center, Assateague's Nature Center and Point Lookout's history center let kids explore and learn about wildlife, history and unique ecosystems. Most state parks also offer a wide variety of interpretive programs for visitors of all ages.

FOR CONNECTING FAMILIES WITH NATURE

You'll find most Maryland State Parks within driving distance from your home. Explore beaches, lush woodlands and waterways that help kids appreciate nature. Start a nature journal or see how many animals you can discover during your visits. Spend the day getting an up-close look at birds of prey, snakes and turtles through park sponsored Scales and Tales programs at Pocomoke River, Cunningham Falls, Tuckahoe, Deep Creek and Rocky Gap State Parks, Assateague State Park and Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, as well as Soldiers Delight NEA.

Want more?
Visit
ParkVisitor.com/where-to-go
for destination ideas!



PARTNERS GIVE BACK



The Park Visitor Welcome Map is created at no cost to the state of Maryland or taxpayers. Funding is generously provided by our partners, highlighted here in this map. In addition, 20% of the net proceeds are donated back to directly benefit Maryland State Parks. Supporting our partners is also a great way to say "thank you" for their contribution to your state parks. For more information about the 20% For Parks program and your parks, please visit parkvisitor.com.

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MARYLAND



ADVENTURE

ON YOUR NEXT STATE PARK ADVENTURE

American Indian petroglyphs, unearthed during construction of the Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River in the 1920's, will be featured in a new interpretive display at Susquehanna State Park. Explore and learn about American Indian history at Pocomoke River State Park, where volunteers are re-constructing a dug-out canoe once used by the Pocomoke Indian Nation. A dug-out canoe donated by the Indian Nation resides in the park's nature center, open to the public from late May through Labor Day.

EXPLORE HISTORY

History abounds in Maryland State Parks. South Mountain Battlefield was a critical turning point in the American Civil War, and includes valuable farm and forestland, as well as an intersection with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The stone fort at Fort Frederick State Park, constructed in 1756 to protect Maryland's frontier settlers during the French and Indian War, was restored by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. Soldiers barracks constructed by park staff in the 1970s are popular with visitors, who can encounter volunteers dressed in 18th century clothing during demonstrations and reenactments throughout the late spring and summer.

Point Lookout State Park was home to a prison camp which imprisoned Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. Visit the onsite museum recounting this vivid history, and stay to swim, fish or boat at this southern Maryland site bordered by the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River.

TRAILS OF MARYLAND STATE PARKS

Begin your next state park adventure with one of a dozen Maryland State Park trail maps, available free by downloading from the DNR website. Visitors can also purchase waterproof maps for select state park multi-use trails.

ON WHEELS

Bicycling is a good form of exercise and a great way to explore state parks. Options for families seeking a flatter surface for younger riders include the Torrey C. Brown (TCB) Rail Trail in northern Baltimore County, and the Western Maryland Rail Trail in Frederick County. The TCB Rail Trail follows the former Northern Central Railway and passes through neighboring communities. Other must-sees include the restored 1898 Monkton Train Station, which serves as a park museum and ranger station, and the Sparks Bank Nature Center, featuring interpretive displays and family activities on summer weekends. The Western Maryland Rail Trail begins near Fort Frederick State Park and winds 23 miles along the Potomac River, and includes breathtaking views, an easy grade and interpretive signs along the way.

ON THE WATER

Canoeing and kayaking in Maryland State Parks has never been easier. Paddlers exploring the lake at Tuckahoe State Park may encounter beavers, muskrat, turtles and songbirds along the more than seven miles of water trails. Families can rent boats for easy lakeside paddling at Rocky Gap, Greenbrier and Cunningham Falls State Parks. Explore the Gunpowder River via canoe, kayak or sailboat with rentals at Gunpowder Falls State Park's Hammerman area. Launch your kayak at Susquehanna State Park's Lapidum Boat Ramp and explore the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay. Visitors can launch canoes or kayaks from the boating facility at Elk Neck State Park and paddle the Elk River. Janes Island's signature water trails are well marked and include more than 30 miles, protected from wind and current. Novice paddlers can explore the beautiful changing shoreline.

ON FOOT

State Parks offer more than 780 miles of hiking trails. Greenwell State Park offers 10 miles of marked trails open to the public year round. Pocomoke River State Park offers hikers expansive views of loblolly pines, cypress swamps and opportunities to view wildlife on the scenic Pocomoke River. Gambrill State Park, located on the ridge of the Catocin Mountains, features 16 miles of trails and breathtaking views of the Shenandoah Mountain Valley. Patapsco Valley State Park is nationally known for its 70 miles of maintained trails. Hike the trails around the 42 acre man-made lake at Greenbrier State Park, which afford a few of the area's geological history. Nearly four miles of scenic hiking at Rocks State Park offer steep to moderate changes in elevation. No hike is complete without a visit to the King and Queen seat, a natural 190 foot rock outcrop that was once a ceremonial gathering of the Susquehannock Indians.



10 HIKING ESSENTIALS!

- Appropriate footwear
- Map and compass/GPS
- Extra food
- Extra water and a way to purify it

I love a good hike!

- Rain gear and extra clothing
- First-aid kit
- Safety items: matches or a lighter, a light and a whistle
- Knife or multi-purpose tool
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Daypack/backpack



American
Hiking
Society



LEAVE NO TRACE

We encourage you to practice **Leave No Trace** when visiting your park or any outdoor trail or area. It is easy to do and allows others to enjoy the park, including animals that call it home.

THE LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES ARE:

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

To learn more, visit
LNT.org



leave no trace

CAMP OUT

With more than 2,000 campsites, and 120 full-service and camper cabins, state parks offer guests plenty of overnight accommodation options. Reservations can be made up to 12 months in advance of the date of arrival. Make reservations online at reservations.dnr.state.md.us or by calling the toll-free reservation line at 1-888-432-2267.

CAMPING SEASON AND FEES

Maryland's State Parks offer a camping experience for everyone – from campgrounds with electric, sewer and water hookups and showers, to primitive camping without amenities. Youth group camping is also available at designated state parks. Campsite service charges vary, based on the service provided. Service charges and camping seasons are available at <http://dnr.maryland.gov/Publiclands/Pages/oc.aspx>

CAMPING BASICS

- From Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day there is a two night minimum stay which must include a Friday and Saturday stay. Holidays weekends require a three night stay which must include a Friday/Saturday/Sunday.
- Campsites will be limited to a maximum occupancy of six people. A maximum of two sleeping units will be allowed on each campsite.
- Campsite checkout time is 1 p.m.; camper cabin checkout time is noon, and full-service cabin checkout is 10 a.m. Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- Many parks contain rules and policies that are specific to the individual park and its resources. Please call the individual park to inquire about specific rules.
- Adults age 62 and older with a valid Golden Age Pass are entitled to discounted camping Sunday through Thursday.

FULL-SERVICE AND CAMPER CABINS

In addition to campsites, Maryland State Parks offer full-service and camper cabins as alternative overnight accommodations. Full-service cabins are furnished

EVENT CALENDAR

For fun events, visit dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands

with many of the modern comforts of home, including electricity, bathrooms with showers, fireplaces and kitchens. Cabins also come equipped with minimal dishes, pots and pans and dinnerware. Camper cabins are rustic cabins with beds for four to six people. Grills are provided for outdoor cooking and shared restroom facilities are available nearby.

UNIQUE OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

The Mill Pond Cottage in the Hereford Wildlands of Gunpowder Falls State Park sleeps 8 people and offers visitors opportunities for hiking, paddling, tubing and trout fishing. Local outfitters can be arranged to lead day trips for families.

The Daugherty Creek Conference Center at Janes Island State Park is available year round for half day, full day and overnight use. The facility sleeps 16 and is equipped with four bedrooms, three and one half baths, kitchen, common area, large meeting room, and a deck overlooking the expansive marshes of Janes Island. This site is perfect for meetings and family reunions.

Wye Island Conference Lodge on Maryland's Eastern Shore is available for meetings, retreats, company picnics, family reunions and weddings. Overnight accommodations are available for 6 people in a dormitory setting within the lodge. Outdoors, groups of 50 to 250 people can be accommodated in the nearby pavilion.

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KIDS' CORNER

Kids can explore new nature play spaces in Maryland State Parks. These unique play areas provide physical and creative opportunities for children to play and learn about nature. Nature play spaces include log benches, butterfly gardens, climbing mushrooms, rain barrels and climbing boulders as unstructured imaginative play areas for future environmental stewards.



ABUNDANT WILDLIFE

Maryland State Parks are rich with diverse wildlife. Take a peek through your binoculars, or bring along your camera and catch a memory to share.

BOX TURTLE

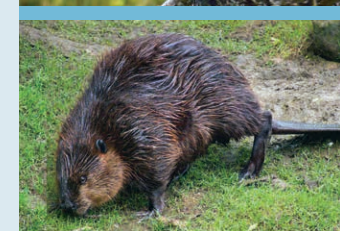
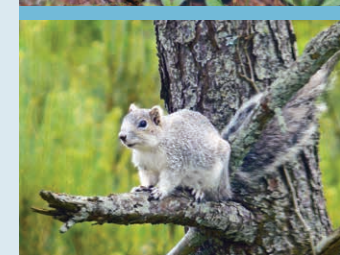
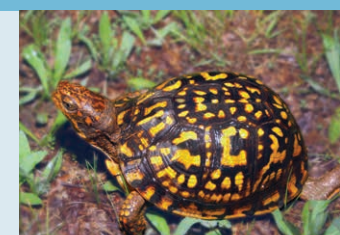
Box turtles live in open woodlands near ponds and streams, and are the only types of turtles that can fully withdraw into their shells.

DELMARVA FOX SQUIRREL

Due to the loss of suitable habitat, this squirrel population remains in only four counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

AMERICAN BEAVER

With flat paddle-shaped tails and large webbed hind feet, beavers are known for their dam-building ability, and prefer to use aspen, poplar and birch wood.



SHARE WHAT YOU LIKE TO DO AND YOUR FAVORITE PARK PHOTOS
WHEN YOU RATE A PARK AT ParkVisitor.com.